

Portland Clean Energy Community Benefits Fund (PCEF) Grants Committee

September 10th, 2021 MINUTES

Committee members present: Maria Sipin, Robin Wang, Ranfis Villatoro, Shanice Clark, Megan Horst, Amanda Squiemphen-Yazzie, Faith Graham.

Committee excused: Michael Edden Hill, Jeffrey Moreland Jr.

PCEF staff: Sam Baraso, Jaimes Valdez, Janet Hammer, David Grandfield, Jay Richmond

Decisions made: Add 9/15 committee meeting to continue discussing heat hazard response proposal

Public comment:

Anissa Pemberton Coalition of Communities of Color: offered thoughts on language accessibility, simplify and break questions up into small pieces. Would suggest that we read questions out loud. The application is long and they understand why, white space would be helpful to break up and make it more readable. Offer that we can reach out directly.

RFP 2 presentation:

Staff provided a review of the grant scoring criteria and evaluation process and recommended changes. The presentation also provided additional information requested by the Committee around allocation of points to GHG reduction related criteria. The full presentation is [here](#).

Committee discussion:

- Ranfis: has recommendation for Standard application scoring criteria impacted by GHG reductions. Some lines can be consolidated, to avoid redundancy. Looking for a tie between scoring criteria and application questions.
- Ranfis: The work is always about inclusion and representation. Maybe we should be asking about empowerment.

Staff share proposed red line changes to clarify how reviewers should be thinking about GHG impact and to improve program ability to provide benefit to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

- Maria: these changes are helpful. Feel better about where we are.
- Megan: appreciates the red lines, knows that we prioritized GHG reduction, likes the visual, clarity with percentages, twin goals climate action and equity... pleased with all that. Understands that staff might make minor changes, as long as the spirit of the questions is maintained. Happy to see the efforts on disability justice.
- Ranfis: sometimes our workforce language focuses on construction. Wondering about RA/GI workforce.
- Robin: generally supportive and appreciative. Understands that questions are long and wonky. Would encourage getting a copy writer, to help identify long questions and "clean it up". For clarity.
- Faith: I think that we can make a proposal. With the assumption that cleanup and "wordsmithing" can happen after the proposal.
 - Faith makes proposal to approve draft RFP published for public comment with additional red-line changes to be released as RFP 2.
 - Robin: seconds

- Amanda: support
- Maria: support
- Megan: support
- Ranfis: support
- Shanice: support

Extreme heat response request for proposals outline:

Staff provided an overview of how the program would respond to the extreme heat event including goals of the response, technology considerations, stakeholder outreach and input, needs assessment, procurement pathways, and ongoing outreach.

Committee discussion:

- Ranfis: what is the role for PBEM? We are responding to the extreme climate event of summer 2021. Can we move toward being more proactive. Are we going to leverage PCEF funds to attract other federal funds. Can we incorporate Right to Dream and others who are not tenants.
 - Jaimes: we recognize that this leaves out folks without homes and electricity. PBEM could play a role in locating potential recipients.
 - Sam: heat is more deadly than other types of events. The timeliness aspect has to do with having the units in place in the spring.
- Robin: how does this impact greenhouse gas reduction? This will save lives but will also increase greenhouse gasses. What's the budget, procurement, staffing, administrative, oversight? Is this a one year or multi-year proposal?
 - Sam: on emission reductions, we are looking for the most efficient equipment and one that can also be used for heating in a way that would support GHG reduction while also saving cost in the winter.
- Robin: Have we considered buying carbon offsets to balance for the increase caused by units.
 - Jaimes: cooling unit installation could link to a path for future retrofits. This will be a one-time program, but multi-year. Funded separately from the regular RFP.
- Megan: any highlights or lessons learned from New York city procurement of window ac units.
 - Jaimes: most of those units were distributed through housing providers, they were able to automatically register the recipients with a reduced electricity rate. Our program will require more logistics given the desire to install units.
 - Sam: Can serve as a bridge and connector to households for future opportunities.
- Ranfis: feels like this is PBEM related work.
- Amanda: are we expecting people to pay the additional costs for electricity?
 - Jaimes: there are tools to help folks with yearly cost savings, community solar, opportunity to register people in bill assistance programs.

Scheduled another meeting to further discuss 9/15/2021 6:00

Meeting close